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**From:** Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/8/2022 7:30:15 PM  
**To:** External\_Stakeholder\_Outreach\_Group [External\_Stakeholder\_Outreach\_Group@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Energy TPs for Climate Cabinet Comms  
**Attachments:** PRESS GUIDANCE ENERGY 3.8.docx

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**From:** Hill, Matt D. EOP/WHO <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:16 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Lindsay <Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov>; Harney, Alethea <Harney.Alethea@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Mayorga, David <david.mayorga@hq.doe.gov>; Troiano, Charisma L <charisma.troiano@hq.doe.gov>; Vinall, Victoria <victoria.vinall@hq.doe.gov>; Smith, Ramzey <ramzey.smith@hq.doe.gov>; Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Cherry, Tyler A <tyler\_cherry@ios.doi.gov>; benjamin.halle@dot.gov; Arndt, Kerry (OST) <kerry.arndt@dot.gov>; Caffrey, Alexandra (OST) <alexandra.caffrey@dot.gov>; John.Rizzo@treasury.gov; Humes, Maya N <HumesMN@state.gov>; DiNardo, Nicholas A <DinardoNA@state.gov>; Smith, Whitney <SmithW@state.gov>; Michael.Amato@usda.gov; Mickeala.Carter@usda.gov; Kate.Waters@usda.gov; Edwards, Jeremy (Federal) <JEdwards@doc.gov>; Lovenheim, Sarah (HHS/ASPA <Sarah.Lovenheim@hhs.gov>; Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA <Kamara.Jones@hhs.gov>; Kimberly.Seigfreid@hhs.gov; Baghdikian, Christina (HHS/OASH) <christina.baghdikian@hhs.gov>; Hughes, C P (Peter) CIV OSD PA (USA) <colin.p.hughes2.civ@mail.mil>; Qualls, Ellen S. EOP/OSTP <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>; Anzola, Andres D. EOP/OSTP <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>; Charissee Ridgeway <Charissee.R.Ridgeway@ceq.eop.gov>  
**Cc:** Tobar, Pili D. EOP/WHO <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>; Vedant Patel <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>; Berner, Kate K. EOP/WHO <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>; Sharma, Saloni EOP/NSC <[REDACTED] Ex. 6>  
**Subject:** Energy TPs for Climate Cabinet Comms

Hi all – thanks for updates on today’s call! As promised, below and attached is a batch of helpful links and messaging on the President’s remarks today that can be used in interviews this week. Please let us know any questions, flags, etc. Thank you!

## **RESOURCES**

### **FACT SHEET: United States Bans Imports of Russian Oil, Liquefied Natural Gas, and Coal**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/08/fact-sheet-united-states-bans-imports-of-russian-oil-liquefied-natural-gas-and-coal/>

### **EO: Executive Order on Prohibiting Certain Imports and New Investments With Respect to Continued Russian Federation Efforts to Undermine the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine.**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/03/08/executive-order-on-use-of-project-labor-agreements-for-federal-construction-projects-2/> [correct link even tho text is wrong]

### **@POTUS thread on minimizing pain at the pump:**

<https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1501246366164606978>

### **The President’s message to oil and gas companies:**

<https://twitter.com/VedantPatel46/status/1501234334346452999>

### **The President’s clean energy riff in today’s remarks:**

<https://twitter.com/ginamccarthy46/status/1501254414794907651>

## **TOPLINE TALKING POINTS**

- There is broad support across country for cutting off strength of Putin's economy and war machine: energy. We are united in our purpose to keep pressure on Putin.
- Today, President Biden signed an EO to ban the import of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal to the United States – a significant action with widespread bipartisan support that will further deprive President Putin of the economic resources he uses to continue his needless war of choice.
- Our ban blocks any new purchases of Russian energy and winds down deliveries of existing purchases that have already been contracted for.
- **We consulted with European allies closely, but do not expect them - and did not ask them - to join us.** The United States is able to take this step because of our strong domestic energy industry and infrastructure and we recognize that not all of our Allies and partners are currently in a position to join us.
  - In 2021, Russian oil was just under 10% of our overall imports of oil, but a third of Europe's imports.
  - The U.S. produces far more oil domestically than any of our Allies—in fact, we are a net exporter and produced more oil and gas in the first year of my presidency than in my predecessor's first year.
  - As of last year, Europe imports more than 6 times more oil from Russia than we do (4.5M to 700K barrels of oil per day).
- **Today's Executive Order bans:**
  - The importation into the United States of Russian crude oil and certain petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, and coal.
  - New U.S. investment in Russia's energy sector, which will ensure that American companies and American investors are not underwriting Vladimir Putin's efforts to expand energy production inside Russia.
  - Americans will also be prohibited from financing foreign investment to produce energy in Russia.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home. Under President Biden's leadership, the United States will continue to mitigate the pain American families feel at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels:
  - The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year.
    - After intensive around-the-clock coordination and consultation by President Biden, the International Energy Agency (IEA) Member countries agreed to a collective release of an initial 60 million barrels of crude oil from our strategic petroleum reserves, with the United States committing half of that in the emergency sale.
    - We are in conversations with a range of energy producers and consumers on further steps we can take to ensure a stable global supply of energy.
  - U.S. oil and gas production is approaching record highs, while thousands of drilling permits on federal lands go unused.
    - Federal policies are not limiting the production of oil and gas. To the contrary, the Biden Administration has been clear that in the short-term, supply must keep up with demand, at home and around the world while we make the shift to a secure clean energy future.
    - We are one of the world's largest producers with a strong domestic oil and gas industry. Natural gas production has never been higher, and crude oil production is expected to hit a new high next year.
    - As major energy company leaders have themselves said, they have the resources and incentives they need to further increase production in the United States.

- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.
  - We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled in part by foreign nations and their leaders, including Putin. The only way to eliminate Putin's and every other producing country's ability to use oil as an economic weapon, is to reduce our dependency on oil.
  - So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can readily access the oil and gas necessary to protect American consumers and allied countries—including through greater U.S. domestic production that is expected to hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **This announcement builds on unprecedented economic costs the United States and our Allies and partners have imposed on Russia.** As a result of our historic, multilateral coordination, Russia has become a global economic and financial pariah:
  - Over 30 countries representing well over half the world's economy have announced sanctions that impose immediate and severe economic costs on Russia, cut off access to high-tech technology, sap its growth potential, and weaken its military for years to come.
  - The Russian ruble is now worth less than a penny and has hit an all-time low after losing almost half of its value since Putin announced his further invasion of Ukraine.
  - By isolating Russia's Central Bank and cutting off the largest Russian banks from the international financial system, we have disarmed his war chest of foreign reserves and left Putin to soften the blow of our sanctions.
  - The United States and governments all over the world are going after Putin's cronies and their families by identifying and freezing the assets they hold in our respective jurisdictions – their yachts, luxury apartments, money, and other ill-gotten gains.

## Q&A

### **Q: Is there a wind down?**

- Our ban blocks any new purchases of Russian energy and winds down deliveries of existing purchases that have already been contracted for.
- This means no new contracts will be allowed. I would refer you to the Treasury Department for the specific details.
- We expect that companies will take immediate action to abstain from the trade and investment covered by the EO.

IF PRESSED: How many days for wind down?

- For existing contracts, deliveries would not be allowed after 45 days.

### **Q: Why do we need such a long wind down?**

- As we have said, we will hit Putin hard while not destabilizing the global economy. These contracts have already been made and want to ensure companies are not stuck with cargos they have already contracted.
- Our actions will deprive Russia of billions of dollars in revenues from U.S. drivers and consumers annually.
- We expect that companies will take immediate action to abstain from the trade and investment covered by the EO.

### **Q: How much will this impact prices? By how much?**

- As the President has said, our measures have been designed to maximize the effect on the Russian economy and minimize the effect here at home. That's what we've seen.
- Yet the President has also been clear that this will not be painless for Americans. We see that in higher energy prices because of Putin's war and we are doing everything we can to mitigate.
- When it comes to this EO, the U.S. action should not have a significant long-term effect on price – though we understand that this will depend on the actions of other countries.
- But as we've said, the U.S. is in a uniquely strong position to take this action due to its domestic production capacity.

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**Q: Will the impact on prices be temporary?**

- I won't get into predictions on this from here. Right now, we are focused on mitigating the immediate effects on energy markets and prices at the pump.
- We already see production here at home nearing record levels, but this will take time to ramp up further – that is why we are taking actions to help bridge during this period and shore up supply, including last week's collective action with the IEA to put 60 million barrels on the market.

**Q: How will it be actually implemented?**

- The E.O. will be signed by the President and implemented by respective Departments and agencies, including Treasury, DHS, and others.
- Our ban blocks any new purchases of Russian energy and includes a wind down for deliveries of existing contracts and purchases.
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- For more details I refer you to the Treasury Department.

**Q: what is different with this Potus action and congressional action?**

- The President is taking strong action today, and we welcome the bipartisan support of members of Congress who have also been leaders on these issues.

**Q: Pressured by Congress?**

- No. The President is taking strong action today, and we welcome the bipartisan support of members of Congress who have also been leaders on these issues.
- We said we were looking at ways to cut current US consumption of Russian energy in the context of working mitigate impact on global supply and consulting with allies and partners.
- The Administration is taking steps to mitigate the pain families feel at the pump AND reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels

**Q: What is the US doing to mitigate these rising oil and gasoline prices?**

- We have been focused on making sure that there is adequate supply and that we provide relief to Americans at the pump. That's why we are working with both energy-consuming and energy-producing nations to mitigate the effects of Putin's aggression.
- That includes the collective IEA release of 60M barrels. Here at home, U.S. production of oil and natural gas is already approaching record levels, and leaders in that industry have said they are ramping up production further this year.
- But we also know that looking ahead, we should not be dependent on the whims of fossil fuel producers like Russia. Even though the U.S. is one of the largest energy producers in the world, oil is a global market, and the only way to be truly energy independent is to stop relying on fossil fuels.

**Q: Additional SPR releases?**

- We are continuing to look at all options to make sure we have adequate supply. The IEA collective action last week said that they stand ready to take additional action as needed.

**Q: Will you pursue a Jones Act waiver?**

- Jones Act waivers are decisions that get made by the agencies. As we've seen in other incidents, waivers will be granted when appropriate.

**HOLDING BACK DOMESTIC PRODUCTION?**

- We are not holding back oil production.
- Even in the midst of the pandemic, the U.S. produced more oil than ever before, and next year production is expected to increase. But these record numbers underscore an inescapable reality: No matter how much we increase production, our economic and national security will remain vulnerable to the whims of other major producing nations. We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled by foreign nations, including by Vladimir Putin.
- So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can efficiently access the global oil and gas supply necessary to protect American consumers – including U.S. domestic production that will hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Q: Why is the Biden administration cutting off access to oil production on federal lands?**

- There is no shortage of opportunity to produce oil from federal lands.
- Of the more than 35 million acres under lease both onshore and offshore, nearly 60% are non-producing. And there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

**Q: But isn't the Biden administration's legal and regulatory decisions stopping production?**

- There are plenty of permits. Right now, there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- Even in the midst of the pandemic, the U.S. produced more oil this past year than in President Trump's first year.
- Next year, according to the Department of Energy, we will produce more oil than ever before.
- The U.S. is already a net energy exporter. We are the largest producer of natural gas in the world and will be a net exporter of natural gas for years to come.
- This balance of trade with the rest of the world demonstrates the unique strength of the U.S. position in the global energy market, from natural gas to oil to refined products – and we will retain this strength regardless of any changes in production at the margin.

**Q: Wouldn't we be in a stronger position if we approved the Keystone XL Pipeline, ANWR, etc?**

- First – the Keystone XL pipeline was not an oil field, it was a proposed pipeline that if permitted, would still be years away from completion. And the sources of oil that would have flowed through it are still flowing. So the Keystone XL decision has absolutely NOTHING to do with the current supply imbalance.
- Second, even though we are at record levels of oil production, we are still subject to a global oil market and what happens in other oil major oil producing countries including Russian aggression in Ukraine and the effects worldwide.
- Finally, these record numbers underscore an inescapable reality: No matter how much we increase production, our economic and national security will remain vulnerable to the whims of other major producing nations. We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled by foreign nations, including by Vladimir Putin.
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**Q: Will Europe join the US in these actions?**

- First of all it's important to acknowledge the important steps Europe has already taken, including on Nord Stream 2. They've also announced their plans to diversify further.

- **We consulted with European allies closely, but do not expect them - and did not ask them - to join us.** The United States is able to take this step because of our strong domestic energy industry and infrastructure and we recognize that not all of our Allies and partners are currently in a position to join us.
  - In 2021, Russian oil was just under 10% of our overall imports of oil, but a third of Europe's imports.
  - The U.S. produces far more oil domestically than any of our Allies—in fact, we are a net exporter and produced more oil and gas in the first year of my presidency than in my predecessor's first year.
  - As of last year, Europe imports more than 6 times more oil from Russia than we do (4.5M to 700K barrels of oil per day)
- We have been in lockstep with Europe on diversifying away from Russian natural gas supplies and denying Putin critical technologies he needs to sustain his energy production.

###

**Matt Hill**

Senior Associate Communications Director

The White House

**Ex. 6**

## PRESS GUIDANCE – ENERGY

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- The U.S. is already a net energy exporter. We are the largest producer of natural gas in the world and will be a net exporter of natural gas for years to come.
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Message

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**From:** Arroyo, Victoria [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDBEA93814E04FD7951B83D01BFD8F58-ARROYO, VIC]  
**Sent:** 3/4/2022 2:18:11 PM  
**To:** Cassidy, Alison [Cassady.Alison@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: FERC hearing: Gas fights, Manchin and a 'snowball effect'

Thank you

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**From:** Cassady, Alison <Cassady.Alison@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2022 8:24 AM  
**To:** Hoffer, Melissa <Hoffer.Melissa@epa.gov>; Arroyo, Victoria <Arroyo.Victoria@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FERC hearing: Gas fights, Manchin and a 'snowball effect'

Just wanted to make sure you saw this.

## FERC hearing: Gas fights, Manchin and a 'snowball effect'

Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission told lawmakers yesterday that the agency could shift policies on natural gas.

BY:

**MIRANDA WILLSON**

| 03/04/2022 07:14 AM EST

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Richard Glick testifying yesterday during a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing. Francis Chung/E&E News

**ENERGYWIRE** | Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission told congressional lawmakers yesterday that the agency's new natural gas policies, including a climate test for pipelines and other projects, could be changed or clarified.

All five members of the commission appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at a contentious hearing, where Chair Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Republican senators accused FERC's Democratic majority of prioritizing environmental concerns over energy security and affordability.

FERC Chair Richard Glick and the other two Democrats on the panel strongly defended the changes and expressed a willingness to work with the gas industry. Glick also said he planned to meet next week with pipeline companies and that FERC could issue a clarifying order "if that will help." Last month, FERC issued sweeping new guidance that upended decades of precedent for how major energy infrastructure is approved (*Energywire*, Feb. 18).

"I don't have any other agenda besides making sure we're following the law and applying the facts of each case," Glick said during the hearing.

The hearing underscored a partisan split at FERC involving oversight of natural gas projects, particularly when it comes to the agency's authority to encourage developers to mitigate pipelines' greenhouse gas emissions. At one point, Republican Commissioner Mark Christie accused Glick —

who controls the commission's agenda — of blocking the panel from voting on certain natural gas proposals, which Glick said was "completely untrue."

Committee ranking member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), meanwhile, floated the idea of trying to overturn FERC's new policies by using the Congressional Review Act, although such an effort would likely fail in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

"This committee should be prepared to use every tool at our disposal to clean up this mess," Barrasso said.

Still, one observer with ties to natural gas utilities said the hearing indicated that FERC has been listening to the concerns raised by gas industry and business groups since the policies were issued last month.

"I got the sense that ... there would be some willingness to tighten things up or adjust things as needed," Frank Maisano, a senior principal at Bracewell LLP, which represents energy clients, said in an interview. "I don't think anyone knows what that means really, but I got that sense from both Republicans and Democrats who were questioning them and commissioners' responses, who were saying, 'We would support that tweak or that adjustment or that flexibility.'"

The debate centered on two policies enacted by FERC in February, both of which were supported by the commission's three Democratic members and voted down by the two Republicans.

The first was an update to the commission's "certificate policy statement," which guides how the agency will consider whether to approve proposed new natural gas pipelines and had last been updated in 1999. The second was a new, "interim" policy outlining how the commission will evaluate projects' greenhouse gas emissions and determine whether they would have a major effect on the environment.

The latter policy — which seems to have gotten more backlash from lawmakers and the natural gas industry — asserts that FERC will consider proposed natural gas projects that emit more than 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year as having a significant environmental impact. Such projects could still be approved if the benefits are found to outweigh those costs, but they will be subject to an environmental impact statement rather than a less-rigorous environmental assessment.

During the hearing yesterday, Manchin said FERC erred in becoming the "first" agency to create such a standard when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions.

"Where did 100,000 tons come from?" he asked multiple times.

FERC landed on the interim standard — which may be revised or finalized later — after assessing how state agencies and others had considered the issue, Democratic Commissioner Allison Clements said. The standard will allow the commission to process natural gas applications in a way that complies with directives from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Glick added.

"We have cases [where] the courts have told us we have to analyze the impacts of the greenhouse gas emissions, as to whether they're significant or not," Glick said. "If we sat there and didn't do anything, these cases would be sitting there."

Still, the Republican commissioners said the majority was misinterpreting a small number of court rulings to serve its own interest in addressing climate change.



“The immediate effect is that there is going to be a chilling of investment, which for the most part is actually going to be realized and have a snowball effect on the consumer down the road,” Republican Commissioner James Danly said.

'Just beyond the pale'

While Republican lawmakers universally panned FERC's changes, some of the committee's Democratic members — most notably Manchin — also questioned whether the agency could needlessly delay new natural gas facilities.

Manchin, who hails from a coal- and natural gas-rich state, said the changes were particularly problematic in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has shaken global energy markets. Simultaneously, Manchin has been calling on the U.S. to ban Russian oil imports and ramp up domestic production of oil and natural gas.

“To deny or put up barriers to natural gas projects and the benefits they provide while Putin is actively and effectively using energy as an economic and political weapon against our allies is just beyond the pale,” Manchin said.

He also suggested that FERC consider delaying the implementation of the interim greenhouse gas emissions policy until parties have had a chance to comment on it. It was not clear whether all of the Democratic commissioners were amenable to the suggestion, but Democratic Commissioner Willie Phillips emphasized that he was “open” to other frameworks or standards as the commission collects comments on the policy.

Former Democratic FERC Commissioner Colette Honorable, who is now a partner at the law firm Reed Smith LLP, said in an interview that she was “heartened” by that comment. So far, some industry clients of hers at Reed Smith have raised concerns about whether the policies could stall the development of gas infrastructure that may be needed, she added.

“That’s an important part of [FERC's] job: not to approach this in a results-oriented fashion, but to be led by what comes before them in the docket,” Honorable said.

One area of common ground that emerged at the hearing centered on FERC's ability to regulate the direct greenhouse gas emissions released by natural gas pipelines, ClearView Energy Partners said in a research note yesterday.

The greenhouse gas policy says that FERC will analyze the “direct” emissions of a natural gas project when considering whether to approve it. Those include fugitive emissions released directly by the project, such as through potential pipeline leaks, as well as emissions stemming from the construction of the project.

But the policy also says that the commissioners “encourage” developers to mitigate “upstream” or “downstream” greenhouse gas emissions. Those could include emissions released during natural gas production or drilling, the combustion of gas at a power plant, or other activities indirectly connected to the pipeline.

“Expectations are strong things, and so are encouragements,” Danly said. “Let’s not allow the financiers that pay for our infrastructure and invest in it to be subject to this soft, vague coercion. I do not like it.”

In response to questioning from Sen. Angus King (I-Maine), who caucuses with the Democrats, Danly agreed that it was within FERC's purview to consider pipelines' "methane leaks." King, who praised the policy statements overall for addressing climate change, suggested that the statements could be "tightened and clarified" to only account for direct emissions, something Danly said he would welcome.

Broadly, Glick encouraged his fellow commissioners and members of the committee to consider that FERC assesses a broad range of environmental impacts when considering all new gas projects. FERC also sometimes requires developers to mitigate various environmental harms, including on waterways, noise pollution and other issues, he said.

Those obligations should extend to FERC's consideration of climate change, according to Glick.

Following the hearing, former Republican Commissioner Neil Chatterjee wrote on Twitter that FERC should delay implementing its new policy statements.

"I testified before the House and Senate 6 times. NEVER had anything close to a hearing like that," Chatterjee, who is now a senior adviser at Hogan Lovells, said in a [tweet](#).

Honorable suggested that the criticisms and accusations hailed during the hearing may be a reflection of today's political landscape.

"We do see much more partisanship today [at FERC], but I think it may be more symptomatic of what's happening in our nation," she said.

*This story also appears in E&E Daily.*

Alison L. Cassady  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Cell: (202) 941-6036

Message

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**From:** Blythers, Dorien [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B2F55C84DABD40CAB455EF277B0A0077-BLYTHERS, D]  
**Sent:** 2/25/2022 2:29:26 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]; Harney, Alethea [Harney.Alethea@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Talking Points: The United States' Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Forwarding along.

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**From:** Isen, Thomas M. EOP/WHO Ex. 6  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:48 PM  
**Cc:** DL EOP Cabinet Affairs Ex. 6  
**Subject:** FW: Talking Points: The United States' Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Hi All –

See below from Evan to your bosses.

Thank you,  
Thomas

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**From:** Ryan, Evan M. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:47 PM  
**To:** Ryan, Evan M. EOP/WHO Ex. 6  
**Cc:** DL EOP Cabinet Affairs Ex. 6  
**Subject:** Talking Points: The United States' Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Cabinet members -

Following the President's remarks this afternoon on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, please see below for talking points on our response.

Thank you,  
Evan

**Talking Points:**

- Vladimir Putin has chosen to launch a premeditated war of choice that will bring catastrophic loss of life and human suffering. **Russia alone is responsible for the death and destruction this war will bring, and the United States and its Allies and partners will hold Russia accountable.**
- Russia has violated the core principles that uphold global peace and security, seeking to change the borders of a sovereign country by force.
- The United States, along with its Allies and partners, is imposing severe and immediate economic costs on Russia. These measures include sweeping financial sanctions that will have an immediate impact on its economy and export controls that will cut off Russia's access to vital technological inputs, atrophy its industrial base, and undercut Russia's strategic ambitions to exert influence on the world stage.
- The U.S. is cutting off Russia's largest bank from the U.S financial system and imposing full blocking sanctions on four other major Russian financial institutions, in addition to the two already sanctioned on February 22 – freezing any of their assets that touch the U.S. financial system. With these actions, the ten largest financial institutions in Russia are now under U.S. sanctions. Russia will see an immediate impact from these measures –

capital flight, a weaker currency, rising inflation, higher borrowing costs, and reduced access to global financial markets.

- We are also imposing new financing restrictions on thirteen of the most critical Russian state-owned enterprises, including Gazprom. These entities, including companies critical to the Russian economy are now barred from raising money through the U.S. market – which limits the Kremlin’s ability to raise money for its activity.
- In addition, the United States is sanctioning additional Russian oligarchs in Putin’s inner circle and their family members. These actions cut them off from the U.S. financial system, freeze any assets they have in the United States, and block their travel to the U.S.
- Our export control measures will cut off key Russian industries from vital U.S. technologies including semiconductors, telecommunications, lasers, avionics, and maritime technology. These measures primarily target Russian defense, aviation and maritime industries, sectors important to Russia’s long-term strategic interests. They will choke off Russia’s import of technologies critical to a diversified economy and Putin’s ability to project power.
- Our Allies in Europe and elsewhere are also imposing sanctions on Russia. Instead of dividing the U.S. from its Allies and partners, Russia’s actions have united the world and further isolated it. We have been coordinating with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Australia, and others to ensure our collective, coordinated response imposes steep costs on Russia.
- These steps are in addition to the sanctions the Administration imposed on February 22 in reaction to Russia’s actions in the Donbas. The Administration remains fully prepared to impose further and more severe costs on Russia.
- We are closely monitoring energy supplies for disruption and have been coordinating with major oil producers and consumers to secure global energy supplies. We are actively coordinating with countries around the world to evaluate a collective release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserves for major energy consumers. The United States will release additional barrels of oil as conditions warrant.
- To strengthen NATO and reassure our Allies, the President has also announced the deployment of additional U.S. military personnel to Europe. These deployments will bolster our deterrent and defensive presence alongside our NATO Allies and are in addition to forces that have already been deployed to Romania and Poland, as well as those the President announced on February 22 he would send to further strengthen NATO eastern flank countries.
- The President has made clear he will not send American soldiers to fight in Ukraine. But we will defend every inch of NATO territory, adhering to our sacred commitments.
- The United States has committed \$650 million in security assistance to Ukraine over the past year and recently announced a \$1 billion sovereign loan guarantee. We will continue to support the Ukrainian people as they defend their country from this unprovoked attack.

Evan Ryan  
Cabinet Secretary  
The White House

**Ex. 6**

Message

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**From:** Bascomb, Desiree [Bascomb.Desiree@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/11/2022 3:23:01 PM  
**To:** Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** TPs for Administrator Regan: Ukraine and Energy Prices  
**Attachments:** Talking points for Admin. Regan- Ukraine\_Energy Prices.docx

Hi Nick,

We pulled together some talking points for the Administrator regarding the Ukraine and oil prices. We'll send these with him for his event on Monday so that he can be prepared if he gets questions. Most of this was pulled from the CERA week press brief, with exception of the first question. Just wanted your eyes on it. Please let me know if you have comments.

Thanks,  
Desiree

Desiree Bascomb  
Deputy Speechwriter  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-989-5813 (cell)

## **TALKING POINTS FOR ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL S. REGAN UKRAINE/ENERGY PRICES**

### **Is it tone deaf to be at an event speaking about EVs when most Americans are highly concerned with the rising prices of fuel?**

- The United States stands in support of the Ukrainian people and democracy.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home and the President has been transparent about the costs American families are experiencing.
- Under President Biden's leadership, the United States will continue to mitigate the pain American families feel at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
- The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year.
- We should walk and chew gum at the same time. The impact of rising oil prices only further supports that fact that we need to accelerate our transition to clean energy.

### **Energy Prices & Oil Ban**

- There is broad bipartisan support for cutting off strength of Putin's economy and war machine: energy. We are united in our purpose to keep pressure on Putin.
- President Biden signed an EO to ban the import of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal to the United States.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home and the President has been transparent about the costs American families are experiencing.
- Under President Biden's leadership, the United States will continue to mitigate the pain American families feel at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
  - o The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year.
  - o U.S. oil and gas production is approaching record highs, while thousands of drilling permits on federal lands go unused.
  - o In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up - not slow down - our transition to a clean energy future.

### **Is the RFS program contributing to higher prices? Does EPA plan to relieve its requirement under the RFS?**

- When it comes to the RFS program, right now we are focused on the RFS 2020-2022 volume rulemaking and making sure we issue a final rule as soon as we can. We know there are a lot of thoughts from stakeholders regarding the program and what should be done, and our team is in constant touch with those stakeholders to get the best information available to inform our choices for the program.
- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.
- This crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Is EPA moving forward with regulations that could raise energy prices?**

- President Biden has been clear that we will take action to mitigate the price impacts we are currently experiencing.
- We also must continue our work to protect people's health, ensure clean air, and provide economic opportunity and regulatory certainty for American industries.

**Why is the Biden administration cutting off access to oil production on federal lands?**

- There is no shortage of opportunity to produce oil from federal lands.
- Of the more than 35 million acres under lease both onshore and offshore, nearly 60% are non-producing. And there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

Message

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**From:** Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2E28C198A3E34148ABBC52FCB533F73A-CONGER, NIC]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2022 1:19:40 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Dlouhy [jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]  
**Subject:** Re: russia/ukraine

Yep- thanks for checking in! I'm talking to my fuels team about that subject today. Will let you know if there's anything to share from that.

Nick Conger  
EPA Press Secretary  
202-941-1116

On Feb 24, 2022, at 8:17 AM, Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Nick, good morning.

No question the nexus of decisions on energy/oil amid Russia/Ukraine are elsewhere (WH, NSC, DOE). But of course I'm super interested in anything EPA ponders or does that could be seen as addressing concerns around fuel supply and cost (ie fuel specs, waivers, RFS moves, other policy shifts).

I don't want to harass you regularly on this (or anything else -- you're busy enough), but I wanted to highlight my interest jic.

Thanks,  
Jen.

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Jennifer A. Dlouhy  
[jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net](mailto:jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net) / [jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com](mailto:jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com) / [reporterjen@protonmail.com](mailto:reporterjen@protonmail.com)  
Desk: 202.807.2159  
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Text me on WhatsApp (especially during COP26 10/30-11/14):  
<https://wa.me/12029053257>  
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc  
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>



Message

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**From:** Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2E28C198A3E34148ABBC52FCB533F73A-CONGER, NIC]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2022 1:46:40 PM  
**To:** Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; Goffman, Joseph [Goffman.Joseph@epa.gov]; Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: russia/ukraine

I've talked to Jen and she's not writing anything at the moment, but wanted to flag the query in case there are any discussions on this front. There may be more similar to this: **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Nick Conger  
EPA Press Secretary  
202-941-1116

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>  
**Date:** February 24, 2022 at 8:17:56 AM EST  
**To:** "Conger, Nick" <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** russia/ukraine  
**Reply-To:** "Jennifer A. Dlouhy" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>

Nick, good morning.

No question the nexus of decisions on energy/oil amid Russia/Ukraine are elsewhere (WH, NSC, DOE). But of course I'm super interested in anything EPA ponders or does that could be seen as addressing concerns around fuel supply and cost (ie fuel specs, waivers, RFS moves, other policy shifts).

I don't want to harass you regularly on this (or anything else -- you're busy enough), but I wanted to highlight my interest jic.

Thanks,  
Jen.

---

Jennifer A. Dlouhy  
[jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net](mailto:jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net) / [jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com](mailto:jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com) / [reporterjen@protonmail.com](mailto:reporterjen@protonmail.com)  
Desk: 202.807.2159  
Cell/Text/Signal/WhatsApp: 202.905.3257  
Text me on WhatsApp (especially during COP26 10/30-11/14):  
<https://wa.me/12029053257>  
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc  
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

**From:** Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2E28C198A3E34148ABBC52FCB533F73A-CONGER, NIC]  
**Sent:** 3/8/2022 3:34:41 PM  
**To:** Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** WH talkers

As of this am...

### **TOPLINES**

- ☐ We have been very clear that we're considering a possible oil import ban. No decision has been made at this time.
- ☐ We must be unwavering in our efforts to continue delivering punishing economic consequences on Putin while taking all action necessary to limit impact to prices at the gas pump. That is what the President is focused on doing.
- ☐ The reality is that Russia is the third largest producer of oil in the world. It is also the case that impact to US oil imports would be minimal compared to allies and partners. For example, Russian imports account for about a third of Europe's oil imports. But for the U.S., Russian imports are just under 10% of our overall imports of these products.
- ☐ So, when we say we are engaging with allies and partners on this, it's about working with a range of countries around the world – both energy producers and those with reserves of oil supply – to make sure the price per barrel doesn't skyrocket and pad Putin's profits.
- ☐ President Biden has been very upfront with the American people: Putin's war will not be painless. This crisis makes glaringly clear what we know from decades of history – the only way to secure long-term energy independence is to become energy independent from fossil fuels.
- ☐ The Administration is taking steps to mitigate the pain families feel at the pump AND reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
- ☐ The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year, with 30 million barrels announced just last week.
- ✦ After intensive around-the-clock coordination and consultation by President Biden, the International Energy Agency (IEA) Member countries agreed to a collective release of an initial 60 million barrels of crude oil from our strategic petroleum reserves.
- ✦ We are in conversations with a range of energy producers and consumers on further steps we can take to ensure a stable global supply of energy, no matter what Putin does.
- ☐ US oil and gas production is approaching record highs, while thousands of drilling permits on federal lands go unused

- ✦ Federal policies are NOT limiting the supplies of oil and gas. To the contrary, the Biden Administration has been clear that in the short-term, supply must keep up with demand, here and around the world while we make the shift to a secure clean energy future.
- ✦ We are one of the world's largest producers with a strong domestic oil and gas industry.
- ✦ Natural gas production has never been higher, and crude oil production is expected to hit a new high next year.
- ✦ American oil and gas companies have everything they need to ramp up near-term production. Ninety percent of onshore oil production takes place on non-federal land. And on federal lands – nearly 60% of the leases issued are currently non-producing while 9,000 approved drilling permits are not being used.
- ✦ Major oil company CEOs said this week that they see no barriers to ramping up production today.
- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.
- ✦ No matter how much we increase oil and gas production, our economic and national security will remain vulnerable to the whims of other major producing nations.
- ✦ We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled by foreign nations, including by Vladimir Putin. The only way to eliminate Putin and every other producing country's ability to use oil as an economic weapon, is to reduce our dependency on oil.
- So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can efficiently access the global oil and gas supply necessary to protect American consumers and allied countries– including U.S. domestic production that will hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- We can save families \$500/year by providing tax credits for cheaper, American-produced clean energy from wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal nuclear and carbon capture. We can cut families' gas bills by \$80/month by reducing the costs of EVs so they cost the same as gasoline counterparts. That is the long-term solution to breaking the stranglehold that despotic regimes have over global energy supplies.

## Q&A

**Q: Why is the Biden administration considering an oil import ban on Russia? Won't that hurt consumers?**

- We have been very clear that we're considering a possible oil import ban. No decision has been made at this time.

- ☐ We must be unwavering in our efforts to continue delivering punishing economic consequences on Putin while taking all action necessary to limit impact to prices at the gas pump. That is what the President is focused on doing.
- ☐ The reality is that Russia is the third largest producer of oil in the world. It is also the case that impact to US oil imports would be minimal compared to allies and partners. For example, Russian imports account for about a third of Europe's oil imports. But for the U.S., Russian imports are just under 10% of our overall imports of these products.
- ☐ So, when we say we are engaging with allies and partners on this, it's about working with a range of countries around the world – both energy producers and those with reserves of oil supply – to make sure the price per barrel doesn't skyrocket and pad Putin's profits.
- ☐ President Biden has been very upfront with the American people: Putin's war will not be painless. This crisis makes glaringly clear what we know from decades of history – the only way to secure long-term energy independence is to become energy independent from fossil fuels.
- ☐ The Administration is taking steps to mitigate the pain families feel at the pump AND reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.  
**Q: You all seemed to be against this idea just a few days ago. Is this a flip flop? Is it pressure from Congress?**
- ☐ No.
- ☐ We said we were looking at ways to cut current US consumption of Russian energy in the context of working mitigate impact on global supply and consulting with allies and partners.
- ☐ The Administration is taking steps to mitigate the pain families feel at the pump AND reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels  
**Q: Are you asking Europe and other allies to put in place import ban?**
- ☐ We are consulting with Allies and partners like the EU and partners in Asia and the Middle East so the U.S. took this action in coordination. And to enable us to be prepared to take actions to mitigate the impact or spillover from our import ban.
- ☐ But we recognize the United States has a different set of capacities and capabilities of mitigating the impact than allies and partners.
- ☐ We import in the range of 700K b/d of crude oil and petroleum products. Europe imports in the range of 3.5M b/d of the same. That means that Russian imports account for about a third of Europe's oil imports. But for the U.S., Russian imports are just under 10% of our overall imports of these products.

**Q: Are you considering easing oil embargo on Venezuela to address impact of this action? Was it discussed on the most recent trip?**

- ☐ The purpose of that trip was to discuss a range of issues including energy security and discussions are ongoing. I won't get ahead of them.

**Q: Were hostages returned in exchange for easing of US sanctions on oil?**

- ☐ These are separate issues. The purpose of the trip is to discuss a range of issues, including the health and welfare of detained U.S. citizens which we never miss an opportunity on. Those meetings are ongoing and I won't get ahead of them.

**Q: Is Iran Deal being used to get more oil into market to get more oil into market to address impact of these actions?**

- ☐ There is just one purpose for the Iran Deal: To ensure Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon.
- ☐ The new sanctions on Russia are not related to nuclear talks with Iran and would have no impact on implementation of a nuclear deal.
- ☐ Under any deal, our embargo on Iranian oil would continue. There is no circumstance in which the deal results in the U.S. buying Iranian oil.
- ☐ We continue to engage with the P5+1, including Russia on Iran Deal negotiations.

**Q: Are you considering a Biden trip to Saudi to get more oil?**

- ☐ We have no international travel to announce. Speculation is premature.
- ☐ Moreover, the frame that relations with Saudi Arabia are centered on oil is simply wrong.
- ☐ President Biden and King Salman spoke early last month and already agreed to collaborate on a range of issues like support for the UN-led process to end the war in Yemen, support for Saudi Arabia's territorial defense against Iranian proxy attacks, unprecedented climate cooperation, economic and trade collaboration, as well as managing energy pressures.
- ☐ We will continue to follow up on all of these issues. But to view engagement with Saudi Arabia as asking for oil is simply wrong and a misunderstanding of the both the complexity of that issue as well as our multifaceted discussions with the Saudis from the President on down.

**Q: Asking OPEC+ to produce more oil?**

- ☐ The Biden administration is engaging with a range of producer and consuming countries. But to view our conversations with OPEC+ as asking for more oil is simply wrong and a misunderstanding of the complexity of that issue and how OPEC+ operates.

**Q: Is the Administration prioritizing oil over human rights by going to Venezuela, Iran, and KSA?**

- ☐ No.
- ☐ Oil is a global market with different sellers and buyers. The President's focus is working with a range of producers and consumers to maintain global supply and not harm working families. This is not about any one country.
- ☐ In every conversation the President and his team have with these countries, we emphasize the importance of progress in advancing human rights.

- ☐ And the current environment just reinforces the need to reduce our dependence on oil. So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can efficiently access the global oil and gas supply necessary to protect American consumers – including U.S. domestic production that will hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Q: Why is the Biden administration holding back oil production / Are you asking US companies to pump more?**

- ☐ We are not holding back oil production.
- ☐ Even in the midst of the pandemic, the U.S. produced more oil than ever before, and next year production is expected to increase. But these record numbers underscore an inescapable reality: No matter how much we increase production, our economic and national security will remain vulnerable to the whims of other major producing nations. We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled by foreign nations, including by Vladimir Putin.
- ☐ So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can efficiently access the global oil and gas supply necessary to protect American consumers – including U.S. domestic production that will hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Q: Why is the Biden administration cutting off access to oil production on federal lands?**

- ☐ There is no shortage of opportunity to produce oil from federal lands.
- ☐ Of the more than 35 million acres under lease both onshore and offshore, nearly 60% are non-producing. And there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- ☐ And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

**Q: But isn't the Biden administration's legal and regulatory decisions stopping production?**

- ☐ There are plenty of permits. Right now, there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- ☐ Even in the midst of the pandemic, the U.S. produced more oil this past year than in President Trump's first year.
- ☐ Next year, according to the Department of Energy, we will produce more oil than ever before.
- ☐ The U.S. is already a net energy exporter. We are the largest producer of natural gas in the world and will be a net exporter of natural gas for years to come.
- ☐ This balance of trade with the rest of the world demonstrates the unique strength of the U.S. position in the global energy market, from natural gas to oil to refined products – and we will retain this strength regardless of any changes in production at the margin.

**Q: Wouldn't we be in a stronger position if we approved the Keystone Pipeline, ANWR, etc?**

- ☐ First -- Keystone was not an oil field, it was a proposed pipeline that if permitted, would still be years away from completion. And the sources of oil that would have flowed through it are still flowing. So the Keystone decision has absolutely NOTHING to do with the current supply imbalance.
- ☐ Second, even though we are at record levels of oil production, we are still subject to a global oil market and what happens in other oil major oil producing countries including Russian aggression in Ukraine and the effects worldwide.
- ☐ Finally, these record numbers underscore an inescapable reality: No matter how much we increase production, our economic and national security will remain vulnerable to the whims of other major producing nations. We cannot drill our way out of dependence on a global commodity controlled by foreign nations, including by Vladimir Putin.
- ☐ So, even as President Biden does everything in his power in the short term to make sure we can efficiently access the global oil and gas supply necessary to protect American consumers – including U.S. domestic production that will hit record highs next year – this crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Nick Conger  
Press Secretary  
Environmental Protection Agency  
202-941-1116 (mobile)  
[Newsroom](#)  
*Twitter: [@EPAPressOffice](#)*

Message

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**From:** Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2E28C198A3E34148ABBC52FCB533F73A-CONGER, NIC]  
**Sent:** 3/8/2022 7:50:45 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Q&A

Let me know if you have any thoughts/changes.

**We are seeing a huge increase in food and gas costs. Is the RFS program contributing to the problem?  
Does EPA plan to relieve its requirement under the RFS?**

- Under President Biden's leadership, the Administration is taking steps to mitigate the pain families feel at the pump AND reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
- The President has taken important steps, including his recent announcement about a crude oil import ban from Russia. We are able to take this action in large part because of our strong domestic energy industry and infrastructure.
- When it comes to the RFS program, right now we are focused on the RFS 2020-2022 volume rulemaking and making sure we issue a final rule as soon as we can. We know there are a lot of thoughts from stakeholders regarding the program and what should be done, and our team is in constant touch with those stakeholders to get the best information available to inform our choices for the program.
- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.
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Nick Conger  
Press Secretary  
Environmental Protection Agency  
202-941-1116 (mobile)  
[Newsroom](#)  
[Twitter: @EPAPressOffice](#)



Message

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**From:** Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/18/2022 5:57:55 PM  
**To:** Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]  
**CC:** EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Flag: E&E News inquiry - 12pm EST deadline

FYI — below is Hannah's story — she said that she would consider updating upon receipt of our response. Not sure we will need to. Program has the article.

**E&E: Could Russia's invasion of Ukraine revive U.S. uranium mining?**  
<https://www.eenews.net/articles/could-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-revive-u-s-uranium-mining/>

On Mar 18, 2022, at 10:18 AM, Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

All good to move this one forward with the program, please flag the draft response for Nick and I when available!

---

**From:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2022 10:13 AM  
**To:** Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Flag: E&E News inquiry - 12pm EST deadline

Due to sanction mentionable, flagging. Have already shared with OLEM and acknowledged the reporter. If you would like me to stand down, please advise.

**From:** Hannah Northey <[hnorthey@eenews.net](mailto:hnorthey@eenews.net)>  
**Date:** March 18, 2022 at 1:21:54 AM EDT  
**To:** EPA Press Office <[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jael Holzman <[jholzman@eenews.net](mailto:jholzman@eenews.net)>  
**Subject:** E&E News inquiry - 12pm EST deadline

sanctions on Rosatom

**From:** Ex. 6 - Michael Regan  
**Sent:** 3/12/2022 9:17:58 PM  
**To:** Lance, Kathleen [Lance.Kathleen@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; Morgan, Ashley [Morgan.Ashley.M@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: 2022 03 14 Administrator Regan E-Briefing Book  
**Attachments:** 2022 03 14 line x line.docx; 2022 03 14 OPEEE Event Memo Flint Hill School Event.docx; 2022 03 14 OPEEE Q&A Flint Hill Elementary QA - 430pm.docx; 2022 03 14 OPEEE REMARKS Flint Hill Elementary School Electric School Buses - 4pm.docx; 2022 03 14 Talking points for Admin. Regan- Ukraine\_Energy Prices\_520.docx; 2022 03 14 OPEEE Digital Video Brief Vienna, VA Trip Digital.docx; 2022 03 14 OPEEE KeyIssues\_DERASchoolBus\_NorthernVirginia (1).docx; 2022 03 14 NCTF Event Memo.docx; 2022 03 14 NCTF Principals Agenda 2022-03-14 1600 (002).docx; 2022 03 14 NCTF Briefing\_Natl Strategy Building Codes\_5.3-PC.pptx; 2022 03 14 NCTF CSI IWG 2022-03-04 1315.pptx; 2022 03 14 OAR Briefing Memo\_Oil and Gas CAA 111 Supplemental Proposal\_Early Guidance\_.docx; 2022 03 14 OAR Slide Deck Oil and Gas Sector\_03.14.22\_EG\_AO.pptx; 2022 03 14 FOR APPROVAL Draft Administrator Social.docx; 2022 03 14 FOR REVIEW RegionalClips31122.docx

Thank you Kathleen!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2022, at 12:58 PM, Lance, Kathleen <Lance.Kathleen@epa.gov> wrote:

Administrator Regan,

Attached is the e-briefing book for Monday, March 14. A printed copy will be ready for you when you arrive in the morning.

A phone interview is likely to land during your drive back to headquarters after the EV School Bus Event. A Press Briefing Memo will be shared as soon as it is received.

Reminder to please bring your luggage for travel on Monday for overnight to North Carolina. The recommended attire for Tuesday's event is business.

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#### SCHEDULE

- Line x line schedule for Monday, March 14, 2022

#### DOCUMENTS

- Event Memo: Visit to Flint Hill Elementary School and EV Bus Trip
  - Q&A Responses: Conversation with Students at Flint Hill Elementary
  - Remarks: Flint Hill Elementary EV Bus Event
  - Talking Points: Ukraine/Energy Prices
  - Digital Direct-to-Camera Brief
  - Key Issues Document
- Event Memo: National Climate Task Force Principals Meeting
  - Remarks: National Climate Task Force Principals Meeting
  - Agenda
  - PowerPoint: National Strategy to Advance Building Codes
  - PowerPoint: Climate-Smart Infrastructure Interagency Working Group

- Briefing Memo: Clean Air Act Section 111 Oil and Natural Gas Early Guidance
  - PowerPoint

**FOR APPROVAL**

- Draft Social for Approval

**FOR REVIEW**

- Regional News Clips

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kindly,

Kathleen C. Lance  
Director of Scheduling and Advance  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Cell: (202) 941-1109

## **TALKING POINTS FOR ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL S. REGAN UKRAINE/ENERGY PRICES**

### **Is it tone deaf to be at an event speaking about EVs when most Americans are highly concerned with the rising prices of fuel?**

- The United States stands in support of the Ukrainian people and democracy.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home and the President has been transparent about the costs American families are experiencing.
- Under President Biden's leadership, the United States will continue to mitigate the pain American families feel at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
- The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year.
- We should walk and chew gum at the same time. The impact of rising oil prices only further supports that fact that we need to accelerate our transition to clean energy and give people more affordable and convenient transportation options that make them less vulnerable to price spikes in the future.

### **Energy Prices & Oil Ban**

- There is broad bipartisan support for cutting off strength of Putin's economy and war machine: energy. We are united in our purpose to keep pressure on Putin.
- President Biden signed an EO to ban the import of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal to the United States.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home and the President has been transparent about the costs American families are experiencing.
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  - o U.S. oil and gas production is approaching record highs, while thousands of drilling permits on federal lands go unused.
  - o In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up - not slow down - our transition to a clean energy future.

### **Is the RFS program contributing to higher prices? Does EPA plan to relieve its requirement under the RFS?**

- When it comes to the RFS program, right now we are focused on the RFS 2020-2022 volume rulemaking and making sure we issue a final rule as soon as we can. We know there are a lot of thoughts from stakeholders regarding the program and what should be done, and our team is in constant touch with those stakeholders to get the best information available to inform our choices for the program.
- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.

- This crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Is EPA moving forward with regulations that could raise energy prices?**

- President Biden has been clear that we will take action to mitigate the price impacts we are currently experiencing.
- We also must continue our work to protect people's health, ensure clean air, and provide economic opportunity and regulatory certainty for American industries.

**Why is the Biden administration cutting off access to oil production on federal lands?**

- There is no shortage of opportunity to produce oil from federal lands.
- Of the more than 35 million acres under lease both onshore and offshore, nearly 60% are non-producing. And there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

Message

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**From:** Cash, David [Cash.David@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/11/2022 3:54:27 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: TPs + Q&A

Thanks!

David W. Cash  
U.S. EPA  
New England Regional Administrator  
Region 1  
+1-617-918-1012  
(he/his)

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**From:** Hamilton, Lindsay <Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 10:52 AM  
**To:** Cash, David <Cash.David@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: TPs + Q&A

In case this is helpful!

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**From:** Hamilton, Lindsay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 4:13 PM  
**To:** Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** TPs + Q&A

**Ukraine TPs -**

**General Message**

- The attack on Ukraine by Russia is unjustified and unprovoked. The United States and our allies have united in support of the Ukrainian people and democracy.
- President Biden has been clear that the United States will stand up for the people of Ukraine and we are providing robust military, economic, and humanitarian assistance.
- EPA is coordinating with the White House and our federal agency partners to support the United States' efforts regarding Ukraine.

**Energy Prices & Oil Ban**

- There is broad bipartisan support for cutting off strength of Putin's economy and war machine: energy. We are united in our purpose to keep pressure on Putin.
- President Biden signed an EO to ban the import of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal to the United States.
- Putin's unprovoked and brutal war has led to higher energy prices and raised costs for Americans at home and the President has been transparent about the costs American families are experiencing.
- Under President Biden's leadership, the United States will continue to mitigate the pain American families feel at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.
  - o The Administration has already committed to releasing more than 90 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this fiscal year.
  - o U.S. oil and gas production is approaching record highs, while thousands of drilling permits on federal lands go unused.
  - o In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up - not slow down - our transition to a clean energy future.

## Q&A

### **How much will this impact prices? By how much?**

- As the President has said, our measures have been designed to maximize the effect on the Russian economy and minimize the effect here at home. That's what we've seen.
- Yet the President has also been clear that this will not be painless for Americans. We see that in higher energy prices because of Putin's war and we are doing everything we can to mitigate.
- When it comes to this EO, the U.S. action should not have a significant long-term effect on price – though we understand that this will depend on the actions of other countries.
- But as we've said, the U.S. is in a uniquely strong position to take this action due to its domestic production capacity.

### **What is the US doing to mitigate these rising oil and gasoline prices?**

- We have been focused on making sure that there is adequate supply and that we provide relief to Americans at the pump. That's why we are working with both energy-consuming and energy-producing nations to mitigate the effects of Putin's aggression.
- That includes the collective IEA release of 60M barrels. Here at home, U.S. production of oil and natural gas is already approaching record levels, and leaders in that industry have said they are ramping up production further this year.
- But we also know that looking ahead, we should not be dependent on the whims of fossil fuel producers like Russia. Even though the U.S. is one of the largest energy producers in the world, oil is a global market, and the only way to be truly energy independent is to stop relying on fossil fuels.

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- When it comes to the RFS program, right now we are focused on the RFS 2020-2022 volume rulemaking and making sure we issue a final rule as soon as we can. We know there are a lot of thoughts from stakeholders regarding the program and what should be done, and our team is in constant touch with those stakeholders to get the best information available to inform our choices for the program.
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- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

Message

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**From:** Bascomb, Desiree [Bascomb.Desiree@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/18/2022 4:16:48 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Ukraine/Energy TPs  
**Attachments:** Talking points for Admin. Regan- Ukraine\_Energy Prices\_520.docx

Hi Lindsay,

Attached is the final version of Ukraine/Energy talking points we had prepared for the Vienna school bus event.

Thanks,  
Desiree Bascomb  
Deputy Speechwriter  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-989-5813 (cell)



## **TALKING POINTS FOR ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL S. REGAN UKRAINE/ENERGY PRICES**

### **Is it tone deaf to be at an event speaking about EVs when most Americans are highly concerned with the rising prices of fuel?**

- The United States stands in support of the Ukrainian people and democracy.
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- We should walk and chew gum at the same time. The impact of rising oil prices only further supports that fact that we need to accelerate our transition to clean energy and give people more affordable and convenient transportation options that make them less vulnerable to price spikes in the future.

### **Energy Prices & Oil Ban**

- There is broad bipartisan support for cutting off strength of Putin's economy and war machine: energy. We are united in our purpose to keep pressure on Putin.
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- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

## Message

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**From:** Hamilton, Lindsay [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BC6BC5ADBF134E70AC4E553B3B04DF36-HAMILTON, L]  
**Sent:** 3/9/2022 3:26:25 PM  
**To:** Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: TPs + Q&A

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**From:** Hamilton, Lindsay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 4:13 PM  
**To:** Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** TPs + Q&A

### Ukraine TPs -

#### General Message

- The attack on Ukraine by Russia is unjustified and unprovoked. The United States and our allies have united in support of the Ukrainian people and democracy.
- President Biden has been clear that the United States will stand up for the people of Ukraine and we are providing robust military, economic, and humanitarian assistance.
- EPA is coordinating with the White House and our federal agency partners to support the United States' efforts regarding Ukraine.

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#### How much will this impact prices? By how much?

- As the President has said, our measures have been designed to maximize the effect on the Russian economy and minimize the effect here at home. That's what we've seen.
- Yet the President has also been clear that this will not be painless for Americans. We see that in higher energy prices because of Putin's war and we are doing everything we can to mitigate.
- When it comes to this EO, the U.S. action should not have a significant long-term effect on price – though we understand that this will depend on the actions of other countries.
- But as we've said, the U.S. is in a uniquely strong position to take this action due to its domestic production capacity.

#### What is the US doing to mitigate these rising oil and gasoline prices?

- We have been focused on making sure that there is adequate supply and that we provide relief to Americans at the pump. That's why we are working with both energy-consuming and energy-producing nations to mitigate the effects of Putin's aggression.
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**Sent:** 3/11/2022 3:51:09 PM  
**To:** Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]; Andrea Drinkard (Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov) [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Dalbey, Matthew [Dalbey.Matthew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: TPs + Q&A

These are from 3/8, FYI

### **Ukraine TPs -**

#### **General Message**

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- President Biden has been clear that the United States will stand up for the people of Ukraine and we are providing robust military, economic, and humanitarian assistance.
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#### **What is the US doing to mitigate these rising oil and gasoline prices?**

- We have been focused on making sure that there is adequate supply and that we provide relief to Americans at the pump. That's why we are working with both energy-consuming and energy-producing nations to mitigate the effects of Putin's aggression.

- That includes the collective IEA release of 60M barrels. Here at home, U.S. production of oil and natural gas is already approaching record levels, and leaders in that industry have said they are ramping up production further this year.
- But we also know that looking ahead, we should not be dependent on the whims of fossil fuel producers like Russia. Even though the U.S. is one of the largest energy producers in the world, oil is a global market, and the only way to be truly energy independent is to stop relying on fossil fuels.

**Is EPA moving forward with regulations that could raise energy prices?**

- President Biden has been clear that we will take action to mitigate the price impacts we are currently experiencing.
- We also must continue our work to protect people's health, ensure clean air, and provide economic opportunity and regulatory certainty for American industries.

**Is the RFS program contributing to higher prices? Does EPA plan to relieve its requirement under the RFS?**

- When it comes to the RFS program, right now we are focused on the RFS 2020-2022 volume rulemaking and making sure we issue a final rule as soon as we can. We know there are a lot of thoughts from stakeholders regarding the program and what should be done, and our team is in constant touch with those stakeholders to get the best information available to inform our choices for the program.
- In the long run, the way to avoid high gas prices is to speed up – not slow down – our transition to a clean energy future.
- This crisis reinforces our resolve to make America truly energy independent, which means reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

**Why is the Biden administration cutting off access to oil production on federal lands?**

- There is no shortage of opportunity to produce oil from federal lands.
- Of the more than 35 million acres under lease both onshore and offshore, nearly 60% are non-producing. And there are more than 9,000 un-used, approved permits to drill onshore.
- And let's remember that nearly 90% of onshore oil production in this country takes place on state or private land.

**From:** Fernando Gomez [FGomez@afpm.org]  
**Sent:** 3/15/2022 8:51:08 PM  
**To:** Enobakhare, Rosemary [Enobakhare.Rosemary@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** E15 | Psaki's Comments

Hi Rosemary,

I hope all is well. As you know, this is an issue that has plenty of legal history. AFPM can certainly give our perspective. I would ask if you can keep us posted if any developments. Thanks.

Nando  
AFPM  
Cell: 202-352-7669

## Psaki says lifting summer E15 ban among options Biden administration is considering to combat gas price spike

BY KELSEY TAMBORRINO | 03/15/2022 03:34 PM EDT

Lifting a ban on summertime sales of gasoline with higher blends of ethanol is within the “the menu of options” the Biden administration is weighing to bring down the price of gasoline, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki, although no decision has been made.

A bipartisan group of senators last week asked President Joe Biden to consider allowing such ethanol sales during the busy summer travel season to counteract the recent surge in gas prices.

**Details:** Psaki was asked Tuesday about high gas prices heading into the summer months, when drivers are often expected to travel longer distances.

She said the president and his staff were “working overtime right now to evaluate and examine a range of domestic options that continue to be on the table,” adding that the administration is engaged with global suppliers about what can be done to ensure that the supply on the market meets the demand, “thus bringing the price down.”

“There is certainly urgency. There is certainly a need to do everything we can to ensure we are mitigating the impact,” she added during the press briefing.

Psaki was also asked about a bipartisan letter last week from senators urging Biden to permit the year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol blends and whether it specifically was an option to bring down prices. The letter was led by Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.)

"In the menu of options," Psaki replied.

She later added that no decision has been made on any of the domestic options currently on the table and said that ensuring there is more supply in the oil market is a "a big priority and a focus" for the administration.

U.S. gas prices averaged \$4.316 per gallon as of Tuesday, after setting a new record on four consecutive days last week, according to AAA.

**Background:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit last year vacated the Trump-era rule that extended the sale of so-called E15 year-round. The Supreme Court later denied a petition from the biofuels industry to reconsider the appellate court decision. EPA previously submitted a brief that argued the appellate court's analysis didn't reflect any serious error that warranted a Supreme Court review, writing that the court's decision "was based on a thorough application of settled statutory-interpretation principles."

Since then, ethanol advocates have called on the president to use his authorities to lift the summertime restrictions of E15 in a bid to give consumers access to lower cost fuel, including through EPA's waiver authority or through a national emergency.

The Renewable Fuels Association has pointed to a 2019 study that determined that the use of ethanol reduced the price of crude oil by \$6 per barrel and cut gasoline prices by an average of \$0.22 per gallon.

"Preserving the option for American drivers to select E15 throughout the busy summer driving season will benefit our families and businesses while blunting a vital source of funding for Vladimir Putin's campaign of destruction," the corn-state senators wrote last week.

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